

Subpart B—Social Security Overall Minimum Guarantee Defined

§ 229.10 What the social security overall minimum guarantee is.

The social security overall minimum guarantee is the amount of total family benefits which would be paid under the Social Security Act if the employee's railroad service had been covered by that Act. A 100 percent overall minimum benefit may be paid, as described in § 229.11. A 100 percent overall minimum based on age (age O/M) may be payable when the employee is 62 years old. The age O/M is reduced for age for months in which the O/M is payable before the employee attains retirement age. An overall minimum may also be payable before age 62 based on an employee's disability (DIB O/M). The DIB O/M is not reduced for age.

§ 229.11 100 percent overall minimum.

Section 3(f)(3) of the 1974 Act guarantees that the total annuities payable to the employee and spouse, including the vested dual benefits but not including a supplemental annuity, will not be less than 100 percent of the total family benefits payable under the Social Security Act if the employee's railroad service after 1936 were credited as social security earnings. Subpart F describes how the 100 percent overall minimum rate is computed.

Subpart C—Eligibility for Increase Under the Overall Minimum

§ 229.20 When an employee is eligible for an increase under the overall minimum.

(a) *Overall minimum based on age.* An employee annuity can be increased under the age O/M if all the following conditions are met:

- (1) The employee is entitled to an age or disability annuity as shown in part 216 of this chapter.
- (2) The employee is at least 62 years old throughout the whole month. The O/M is reduced for each month it is payable before the month the employee attains retirement age.
- (3) The employee is fully insured under section 214 or 227 of the Social Security Act based on railroad and social security earnings.

(b) *Overall minimum based on disability.* An employee annuity can be increased under the DIB O/M if the employee is under retirement age, and

- (1) Is entitled to an age or disability annuity; and
- (2) Is disabled under § 404.1505 of this title; and
- (3) Is insured for a disability benefit under § 404.130 of this title based upon combined railroad and social security earnings.

(c) *Spouse with child in care or spouse retirement age or older.* If the employee has not attained the age required to qualify the spouse for a spouse annuity but the employee meets the conditions of paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the employee annuity can be increased under the overall minimum if:

- (1) The employee and spouse complete the required statements concerning the family and earnings as provided for in § 229.4 of this part; and
- (2) The spouse meets the marriage requirements as provided for in part 222 of this chapter; and
- (3) The spouse has an eligible child in care, or the spouse is retirement age or older.

(d) *Spouse election.* If the employee has not attained the age required to qualify the spouse for a spouse annuity but the employee meets the conditions of paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the employee annuity can be increased under the overall minimum if:

- (1) The employee and spouse complete the required statements concerning the family and earnings as provided for in § 229.4 of this part; and
- (2) The spouse meets the marriage requirements as provided for in part 222 of this chapter; and
- (3) The spouse is between age 62 and retirement age and does not have a child in care; and
- (4) The spouse files an election to be included.

§ 229.21 When a spouse is eligible for an increase under the overall minimum.

Normally, only the employee annuity receives the amount of the overall minimum increase. However, a spouse annuity may be increased under the O/M in cases in which the O/M benefit